

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sound system, comprising:

a dock adapted to be connected to a music storage device;

an audio head unit adapted to be connected to a set of one or more speakers, said audio head unit includes a control panel, said control panel includes a play list selection device, said audio head unit is separate from said dock; and

a removable hard disk drive capable of being removably connected to said dock and said audio head unit, said hard disk drive stores audio data files loaded from said music storage device, said audio data files organized by one or more play lists, said play list selection device chooses a play list and said audio head unit plays one or more of said audio files according to said play list selected by said play list selection device.

2. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sound system according to claim 1, wherein:

~~said removable hard disk drive stores music data files, said audio head unit plays said music data files.~~

said audio head unit includes a hard disk drive connector; and

said hard disk drive capable of being removably connected to said hard disk drive connector of said audio head unit.

3. (Original) A vehicle sound system according to claim 1, wherein:

said removable hard disk drive stores compressed music data files received from said dock; and

said audio head unit accesses said compressed music data files from said removable hard disk drive in order to play said compressed music data files.

4. (Original) A vehicle sound system according to claim 1, wherein:

said audio head unit includes a switch that senses whether said removable hard disk drive is connected to said audio head unit and prevents said audio head unit from operating if said disk drive is not connected to said audio head unit.

5. (Cancelled)

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6. (Original) A vehicle sound system according to claim 1, wherein:
said audio head unit includes a processor; and
said removable hard disk drive stores a replaceable operating system for said processor.

7. (Original) A vehicle sound system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a disc changer connected to said audio head unit.

8. (Original) A vehicle sound system according to claim 1, wherein:
said audio head unit includes a port for communicating with a disc changer.

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9. (Original) A vehicle sound system according to claim 8, further comprising:
user replaceable program code, said user replaceable program code programs said audio head unit to engage in two-way communication with said disc changer.

10. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sound system according to claim 8, wherein:
~~said audio head unit includes a control panel; and~~
said control panel includes one or more ~~buttons~~ devices dedicated to control said disc changer.

11. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sound system according to claim 8, wherein:
said audio head unit includes a radio tuner; and
said audio head unit includes a switch, said switch having a first input receiving music from said disc changer, a second input receiving music from said radio tuner, ~~and~~ a third input receiving music based on data stored on said removable hard disk drive, and an output communicated to said speakers.

12. (Original) A vehicle sound system according to claim 1, wherein:
said music storage device is a computer with a USB port; and
said dock connects to said USB port.

13. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sound system, comprising:
a port capable of being connected to a disc changer;
one or more speaker outputs;

one or more processor readable storage devices capable of storing user replaceable interface program code and music data files, said one or more processor readable storage devices includes a removably connected hard disk drive, said hard disk drive stores said music data files in a compressed format; and

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one or more processors in communication with said one or more processor readable storage devices; and said port and said one or more speaker outputs, at least one of said one or more processors engages in two-way communication with said disc changer based on said replaceable interface program code, at least one of said one or more processors plays said music data files, said at least one processor that plays said music data files accesses said music data files from said hard disk drive, said one or more processor readable storage devices include a memory device;

said one or more processors perform a method comprising the steps of:

determining whether new replaceable interface program code is to be loaded,

reading said new replaceable interface program code from said hard disk drive if said new replaceable interface code is to be loaded, and

storing said new replaceable interface code on said memory device if said new replaceable interface code is to be loaded.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sound system according to claim 14~~13~~, further comprising:

a dock connected to a computer, said hard disk drive is capable of being removably connected to said dock, said hard disk drive receives said compressed music data files from said dock.

16. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sound system according to claim 14~~13~~, wherein: said user replaceable interface program code is stored on said hard disk drive.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sound system according to claim 13, further comprising:

a radio tuner; and

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a switch, said switch having a first input receiving music from said disc changer, a second input receiving music from said radio tuner, ~~and~~ a third input receiving music from based on said music data files, and an output communicated to said speakers.

19. (Original) A vehicle sound system according to claim 13, further including: a control panel, said control panel includes one or more buttons dedicated to control said disc changer.

20.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sound system, comprising:

a control panel;

a port capable of being in communication with a disc changer, said control panel has one or more controls dedicated to operating said disc changer;

one or more speaker outputs;

a processor readable storage device storing music data; ~~and~~

~~one two~~ or more processors in communication with said processor readable storage device, said port, said control panel and said one or more speaker outputs;
~~at least one of said one or more processors engages in two-way communication~~

~~with said disc changer, at least one of said one or more processors plays said music data in response to said control panel;~~

a radio tuner; and

an audio switch having a first input receiving music from said disc changer, a second input receiving music from said radio tuner, a third input receiving music based on said music data, and an output communicated to said speakers;

said two or more processors includes a first processor and a second processor, said first processor is in communication with said disc changer and said control panel and said audio switch, said second processor is in communication with said audio switch and plays music stored on said processor readable storage device;

said processor readable storage device includes a removably connected hard disk drive in communication with said second processor and capable of being separately connected to a computing device.

28. (Original) A vehicle sound system according to claim 27, wherein:
said control panel has one or more controls dedicated to operating said disc changer.

29. – 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sound system according to claim 27~~34~~, wherein:
said music data includes compressed digital data files.

33. (Currently Amended) A vehicle sound system according to claim 27~~34~~, wherein:
said music data includes files stored in MP3 format.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 34, further including the steps of:~~ A method for playing music, comprising:

receiving and storing first user replaceable music data;

receiving and storing first user replaceable interface program code;

communicating with a first disc changer based on said first user replaceable interface program code;

playing said music data;

receiving and storing second user replaceable interface program code after said step of communicating with a first disc changer; and

communicating with a second disc changer based on said second user replaceable interface program code.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 35, further including the step of:
decrypting said second user replaceable interface program code.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 34, further including the steps of:~~ A method for playing music, comprising:

receiving and storing first user replaceable music data;

receiving and storing first user replaceable interface program code;

communicating with a first disc changer based on said first user replaceable interface program code;

playing said music data;

receiving and storing second user replaceable interface program code after said step of communicating with a first disc changer; and

communicating with said first disc changer based on said second user replaceable interface program code.

38. (Currently Amended) A method for playing ~~music~~ audio, comprising the steps of:
connecting a hard disk drive to a computing device;
transferring audio data files from said computing device to said hard disk drive;
disconnecting said hard disk drive from said computing device;
connecting said hard disk drive to an automobile head unit, said automobile head unit is separate from said computing device;

receiving a choice, at said automobile head unit, between ~~music from~~ a disc changer, a radio and said a removable hard disk drive; and

playing ~~music~~ audio from either said disk changer, said radio or said ~~removable~~ hard disk drive based on said choice.

39. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 38, wherein;
said step of playing ~~music~~ audio includes communicating with said disc changer, when chosen, based on said first user replaceable interface program code.

40. (Original) A method according to claim 38, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a selection of a play list and a selection of a track for said hard disk drive if said hard disk drive is chosen.

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41. (Original) A method according to claim 38, wherein:
said step of receiving a choice includes receiving a selection of a button on a control panel, said button is dedicated to operating said disc changer.

42. (New) A vehicle sound system, comprising:
a dock adapted to be connected to a music storage device;
an audio head unit adapted to be connected to a set of one or more speakers, said audio head unit including a hard disk drive connector, said audio head unit is separate from said dock;
and

a removable hard disk drive capable of being removably connected to said dock and separately removably connected to said hard disk drive connector of said audio head unit, said hard disk drive stores audio data files loaded from said music storage device, said audio head unit plays one or more of said audio data files.